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NECROLOGY

DR. SETH G. SHANKS

Dr. S. G. Shanks, a member of the American Microscopical Society since 1900, died Nov. 5th, 1910. He was an expert and devoted microscopist, and gave much time to the preparation of microscopic slides. It is an interesting coincidence that the illustrations of Mr. E. W. Roberts' paper, published in this number, are photographs of sections made by Dr. Shanks.

Dr. Shanks was a student under Dr. James Armsby and graduated from the Albany Medical College in 1875, taking the prize for the best thesis. After a year of hospital work he entered upon private practice.

His acquaintances testify that he was a most charming companion, and, while he was of a very retiring disposition, he endeared himself to all those who came close to him.

Mrs. Shanks and their daughter survive him.

ROBERT BROWN

Mr. Robert Brown, of New Haven, Conn., a member of this Society since 1885, and a Life Member since 1903, Secretary Emeritus of the Yale Observatory, died June 11, 1911, at the home of his sister.

The cause of his death was gradual weakening of the heart. He was born March 8, 1836, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where his father was a business man who came to this country from Scotland in 1830. He prepared for college under Charles Mathews, principal of a private school in Cincinnati, but on account of ill health did not enter Yale until the third term of Freshman year. During Sophomore year he

was largely instrumental in obtaining the first gymnasium, on Library street, and in college was a member of Linonia, Psi Upsilon and Scroll and Key. After graduation he spent one year at the Yale Medical School for the study of comparative anatomy, but the following year he returned to Cincinnati and was associated with his father in business until 1866. He then became assistant secretary of the Cincinnati Gas Light & Coke Company, and subsequently filled the positions of secretary, treasurer and vice president, remaining with the company sixteen years. Soon after the organization of the new astronomical observatory at Yale, he accepted the newly created office of secretary of that department, which he held until his resignation in 1907, at the close of twenty-five years of service.

At a meeting held at Cincinnati in 1864 to draft resolutions relative to the death of Professor Silliman he advanced a proposition which led to the formation of a Yale Club, believed to be the first one ever organized, of which he became the first secretary. In 1861-62 he was treasurer of the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association of Cincinnati, and its corresponding secretary for the succeeding two years. From 1863 to 1883 he was director and treasurer of the Theological and Religious Library, of which he was a life member; he was manager of the Cincinnati Public Library from 1864 to 1869; member of the School Board of Cincinnati, 1864-65, and corresponding secretary of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society from 1859 to 1868. He was a member of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, and of the Mohonk Indian Conference; a member and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a life member of the Historical Society of New Haven, of the American Forestry Association, of the Yale University Club, and of the Appalachian Club. He was a member of the Country and Graduates clubs of New Haven, as well as a charter member of the Yale Club of Cincinnati. He was married October 2, 1860, to Miss Caroline P. Root, who died October 28, 1908. Two children (adopted) survive, Mrs. Flora C. Fullerton and Mrs. Jessie S. MacFarland.

[Thru the Courtesy of the *Yale Alumni Weekly*.]